

REMARKS

The office action of September 16, 2009, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 1, 3, 8, 9, 11, 13 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the patent to Mojonnier.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Mojonnier.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Mojonnier in view of the patent to Yano et al.

Finally, it is noted that claims 2 and 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims, applicant has canceled claim 2, amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of claim 2, and amended claim 10 to be in independent form.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims presently on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions disclosed in the references.

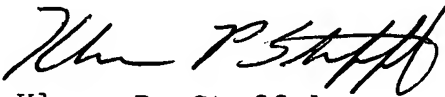
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With the amendment of claim 1 to include the subject matter of allowable claim 2 it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1, 3, 8, 9, 11, 13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and the rejections of claims 12 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 14, 2009.

By: 
Klaus P. Stoffel

Date: December 14, 2009